

A Dissertation on Typhus Fever

by
John C Boyd

of
Hopkinsville Kentucky

I prefer being examined before the Faculty

John C Boyd

Market Street No 184.

admitted March 30th 1820

My dear Mr. [illegible]
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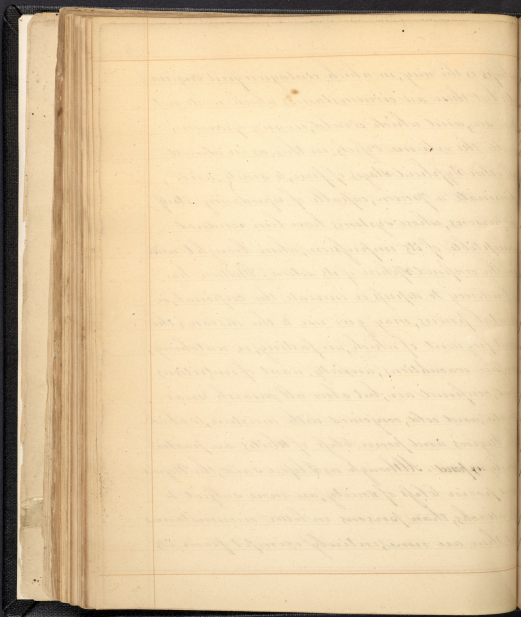
Yours truly
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Typhus Febr

The existence of this disease in the United States, as an Epidemic, has long been known; having disolated the fairest portions of its wide extended territories. From the varied forms in which it has appeared in different parts of the Country, different appellations have been conferred on it; the most common of which are Pneumonia Typhoides &c. That the disease has assumed Pneumonic symptoms, which gave rise to this particular name, cannot be denied, particularly in the North, where diseases of the pulmonary organs exist, as a common occurrence; but it is equally certain, that the appellation is misapplied, as the disease exists in that portion of the Country, in which I reside. If the character of a few of the most prominent symptoms, should entitle a disease to a particular name, it should certainly be designated by different appellations, according as it appeared in the summer, or winter, evidently partaking more of the Bilious character, in the former months, than in the latter.

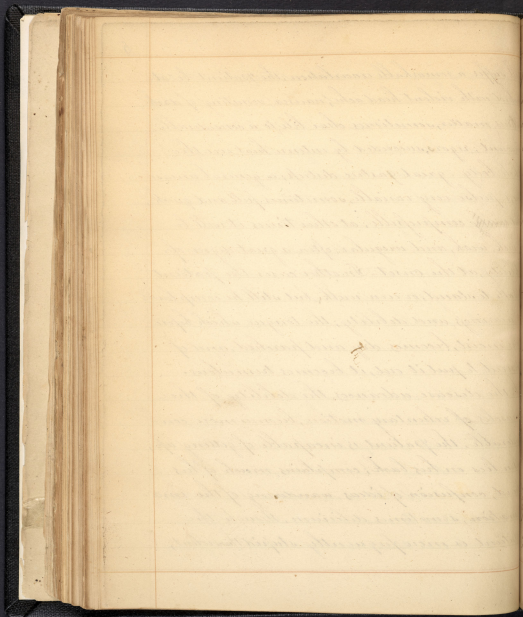
of any other. As it appears in the winter, it certainly
 has many, if not all the symptoms of genuine
 Dyspnea; and should be designated by that appella-
 tion. The Pulmonary Organs are seldom affect-
 ed, and when they are, it proves infinitely the
 mildest ^{form} ~~form~~ in which the disease appears. I have but
 little to say, concerning the contagious char-
 acter of this disease, as it exists in our Country;
 not being in possession of any facts of a positive
 nature, which would justify me, in ^{either} affirming, or
 denying the existence of such. ^{ground} The circumstance
 of its attacking whole Neighbourhoods, as it were
 simultaneously, as also its affecting persons, who
 had not had any communication with the sick,
 are facts, which would lead us to conclude that, it
 owed its origin to an atmospherical distemperature.
 That the disease, in its last stages, in crowded,
 confined, and ill ventilated rooms, where
 chancre has not been observed, is rendered
 contagious, I am willing to admit; and such

perhaps is the way, in which contagion first originates; but these are circumstances which we do not often see, and which would, in my opinion, enable the extreme vessels, in this, as in almost all other Syphilitic stages of fever, to secrete, and eliminate a poison, capable of reproducing itself, in persons, whose systems have been rendered susceptible of its impression, when brought within the confined sphere of its action. Whatever has a tendency to depress or enervate the corporeal, or mental powers, may give rise to the disease; the most frequent of which, are fasting, or watching, excessive evacuations, anxiety, want of nutritious food, confined air; but above all, marsh miasmata, and cold, conjoined with moisture, to which the Negroes and poorer class of Whites are particularly exposed. Although as I before said, the Negroes and poorer class of Society, are more subject to its attacks, than persons in better circumstances yet there are none, entirely exempt from its

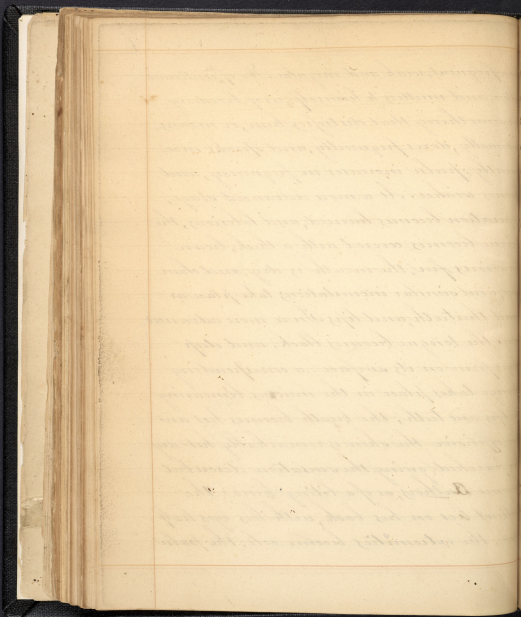


savages, as we often see it in the wealthy, and voluptu-
 -ous. Its greater prevalence, and more frequent mortal-
 -ity, in neighbourhoods contiguous to sources of marsh
 exhalations, than others, in different situations,
 pointed out an obvious source of its origin. To give
 a description, of all the various forms, and symptoms,
 under which it appeared, would require more time,
 and labour, than I can at present bestow: and shall
 therefore, be compelled to confine myself, in the
 description of the disease, to its most common
 form. An attack of the disease is characterised
 by some lassitude, weariness, indisposition to
 motion, nausea, some degree of headache,
 frequent chills, succeeded by flushes of heat, pulse
 somewhat accelerated, but small and ~~sparingly~~ com-
 -pressible, bowels constipated, tongue white and
 furred, sometimes yellow, some uneasiness in the
 limbs and back. It is no uncommon occurrence
 for the patient to continue in this situation
 for some two or three days, when the symptoms

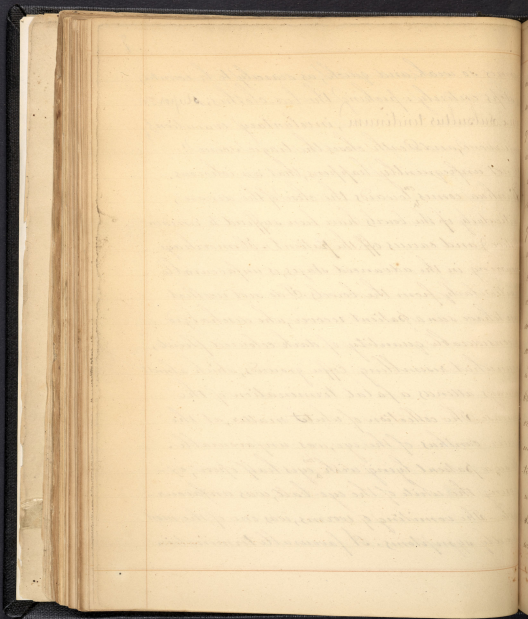
will suffer a remarkable excitation, the patient be attacked with violent head ache, nausea, vomiting of dark bilious matter, sometimes clear bile, to a considerable amount; rigors, succeeded by intense heat over the whole body, great gastric distress; a general uneasiness, pulse very variable, sometimes full and quick, but ~~never~~ compressible; at other times it will be quick, weak, and irregular; often a great degree of debility, at the onset. In other cases the patient is able to stand, or even walk, but still he complains of weariness, and debility; the tongue which before was moist, becomes dry and parched, and if desired to put it out, it becomes tremulous. As the disease advances, the debility of the muscles of voluntary motion, becomes more considerable, the patient is incapable of getting up, often lies on his back; complains much of his head, confusion of ideas, wandering of the imagination, sometimes delirium, though the patient is more frequently stupid than violent;



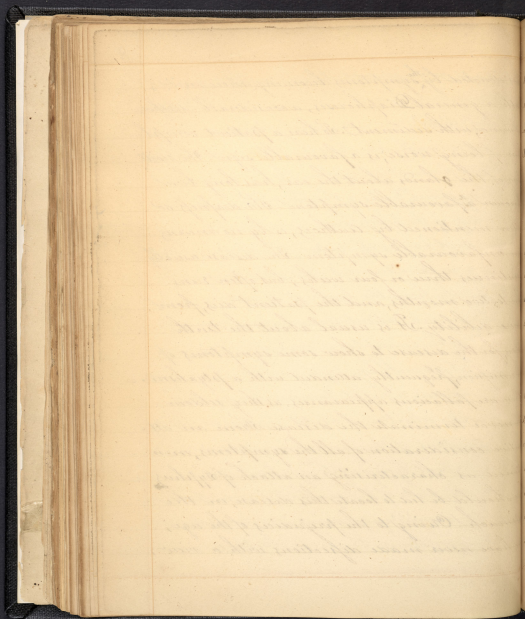
pulse frequent, weak and irregular. He ^{is} ~~is~~ continues
 sullen, and mutters to himself, as if brooding
 over something that distresses him, or means
 continually, does frequently, and speaks inco-
 herently; pulse increases in frequency, and
 becomes weaker. At a more advanced stage,
 respiration becomes hurried, and laborious, the
 tongue becomes covered with a thick, brown
 tenacious fur, the mouth is dry, and clam-
 my, and similar incrustations take place ar-
 ound the teeth, and lips. In a more advanced
 stage, the tongue becomes black, and deep
 chaps form on its surface: a corresponding
 change takes place in the mucus, becom-
 ing the lips and teeth; the breath becomes hot and
 very offensive. the skin is remarkably hot dry
 and parched, giving the sensation described
 by some Authors, as of a biting kind: The
 patient lies on his back, with his eyes half
 open; the extremities become cold; the pulse



becomes so weak, and quick, as scarcely to be counted, or stops entirely: pecking the bed-clothes, stupor, coma, Subultus tendinum, involuntary evacuations, supervene, and Death closes the tragick scene! It not unfrequently happens, that an ichorous Diarrhoea comes ^{on} towards the close of the disease, (particularly if the bowels have been suffered to remain costive) and carries off the patient. Hemorrhage occurring in the advanced stages, is unfavourable particularly from the bowels. I do not recollect ever to have seen a patient recover, who discharged a considerable quantity of dark coloured fluid, somewhat resembling coffee grounds, which almost always attends a fatal termination of the disease. The collection of whitened matter, at the inner canthus of the eye, was unfavourable. To see a patient lying with ^{his} eyes half open, exposing the white of the eye-ball, was unfavourable. The vomiting of worms, was one of the most deadly symptoms. A favourable termination

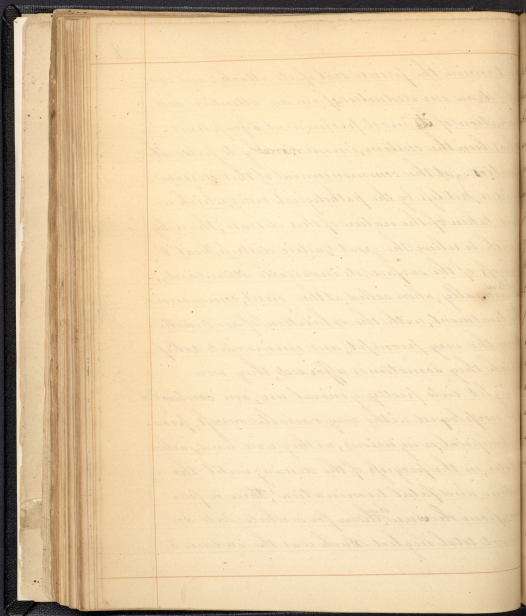


was denoted by ^{the} symptoms becoming more mild,
 with a general Diaphoresis, a considerable discharge
 of urine, with sediment. To hear a patient compl-
 ain of being worse, is a favourable sign. The swell-
 ing of the glands about the ear, has long been
 known a favourable symptom. The diarrhoea so
 often mentioned by authors, is by no means
 an unfavourable symptom. The disease usually
 continues three or four weeks; but often runs
 on to two months, and the patient dies, from
 mere debility. It is usual about the tenth
 day for the disease to show some symptoms of
 a remission, frequently attended with a pyrexia.
 These are fallacious appearances, as they seldom
 or never terminate the disease. From an all-
 tive consideration of all the symptoms, men-
 tioned as characterising an attack of Typhus,
 we should be led to locate this disease, in the
 stomach. Owing to the prejudices of the age,
 we have never made dissections with a view

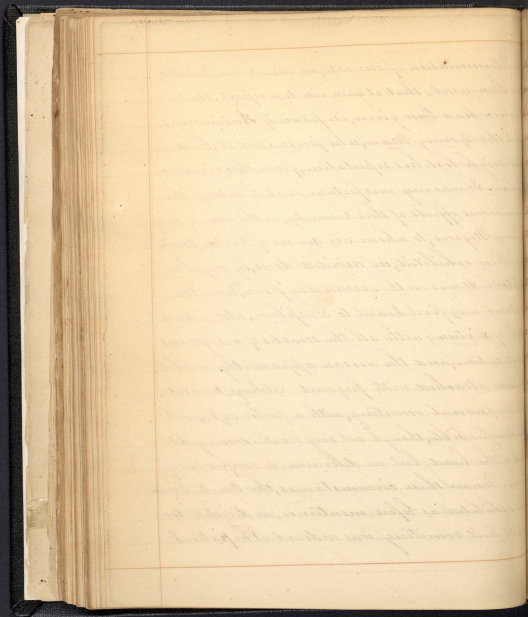


to determine the precise seat of its attack; and can only draw our deductions from an attentive consideration of ^{its} most prominent symptoms.

It has been the custom, immediately, to prescribe Emetics, at the commencement of this disease. Guided, not less by the pathological views, which we have taken of the nature of this disease, than by a wish to relieve the great gastric distress, heat & dryness of the surface, its invariable attendant; we, ^{have} generally, when called, at the onset, commenced the treatment, with the exhibition of an Emetic. From the very prompt, and immediate relief, which they sometimes afforded, they were brought into pretty general use, and continued to be employed with very variable success, proving beneficial, or injurious, as they were used, earlier or later, in the progress of the disease; until the sudden, and fatal termination, threw a few cases, from their use, ^{thence} them for a while, into an almost total neglect. Such was the sudden &



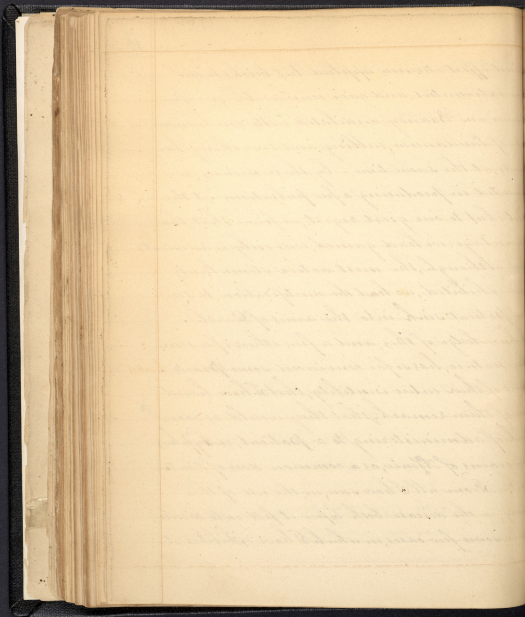
fatal termination of one case, in which an Emetic had been used; that it gave rise to a report, that Arsenic had been given, in place of Antimony; and the Young Man, who prescribed it, had well nigh lost his reputation, from this circumstance. It was my misfortune, next to witness the pernicious effects of this remedy, in the case of one of my Negroes, to whom six grains of Tartar Emetic had been exhibited, in divided doses, by my Preceptor. It was on the second day from ^{the} time the patient was first heard to complain, who was a Girl of Sixteen; with all the marks of a vigorous Constitution, and the disease apparently mild, she was attacked with frequent retchings, nausea, and occasional vomiting, with a pulse soft, quick and compressible, though not very weak. some giddiness of the head, but no delirium, or confusion of ideas. Under these circumstances, the Emetic Tartar was exhibited, as before mentioned, in divided doses untill full vomiting was induced. The patient



discharged a considerable quantity of dark, bilious matter, which became more of the colour of common bile, at the close. As well as we can recollect, it vomited her, four or five times, after which, she had a discharge by stool, which carried off a considerable quantity of feculent matter. She was now put to bed, and was given some Guel. The pulse, during the operation of the Emetic, was considerably increased, in strength, and frequency, which, it retained but a few moments after the patient was put to bed - Only a slight degree of moisture was observable, on the face, and neck. Having retired from the house, in which the patient lay, we were hastily called back, to see the Guel - we did so - and to our great surprise, found the patient almost entirely without a pulse, at the wrist, which very soon afterwards stopped entirely, breathing slowly, and laboriously, and the extremities growing cold. In this situation, a considerable quantity of wine was exhibited; but without the

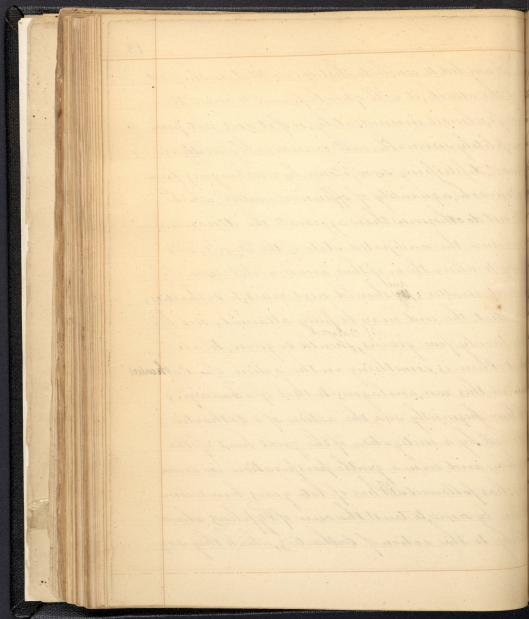
desired effect - We now applied hot bricks to the lower extremities, and gave considerable quantities of Rum, and Brandy undiluted with one hundred drops of Laudanum, rubbing, and smacking her hands, at the same time - by these means, we succeeded in producing a few pulsations at the wrist; but to our great regret, we found that the advantage we had gained, was only evanescent; and although, the most active stimulants were exhibited, we had the mortification, to see our patient sink into the arms of Death.

A knowledge of this, and a few others of a similar nature, has so far convinced some Practitioners of their entire inutility, that I have heard some of them remark, that they would as soon think of administering to a patient, in Typhus forty grains of Opium, as a common dose of Tartar Emetic. From all I have seen, in the use of this remedy, in the disease, both before it fell into disuse, and in some few cases, in which I have exhibited it,

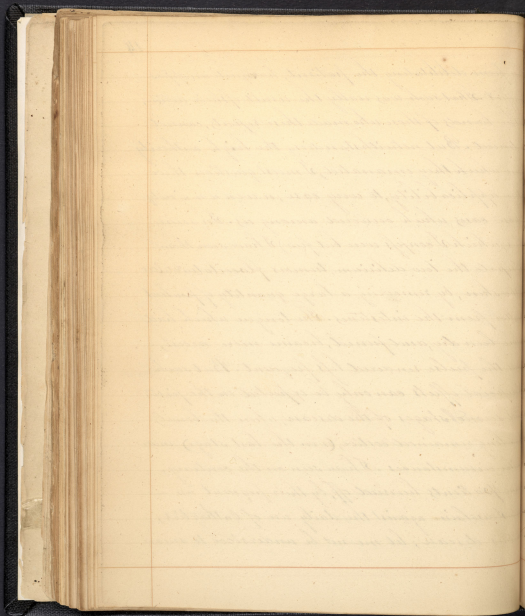


since; I am led to conclude, that if exhibited on the first day of the attack, it will often be found to arrest its progress, almost immediately, or if it does not prove so completely serviceable, will considerably mitigate the most distressing symptoms, by discharging from the stomach, a quantity of offensive matter, which could not do otherwise than aggravate the disease.

To overcome the constipated state of the Bowels, and thereby to relieve them of their accumulated load of feculent matter; ^{we} ~~we~~ should next resort, to Cathartics; and that the end may be fully attained; not less than twenty five grains ^{of Calomel} should be given, to an adult. There is something in the action of ~~a Cathartic~~ ^{Calomel}, in this case, analogous to that of a Sudorific; as I have frequently seen the action of a Cathartic followed by a mitigation of the great heat of the surface; and even a gentle perspiration in some cases, has followed. It has of late years been recommended by some, to trust the cure of Typhus almost entirely to the action of Cathartics, which they say,

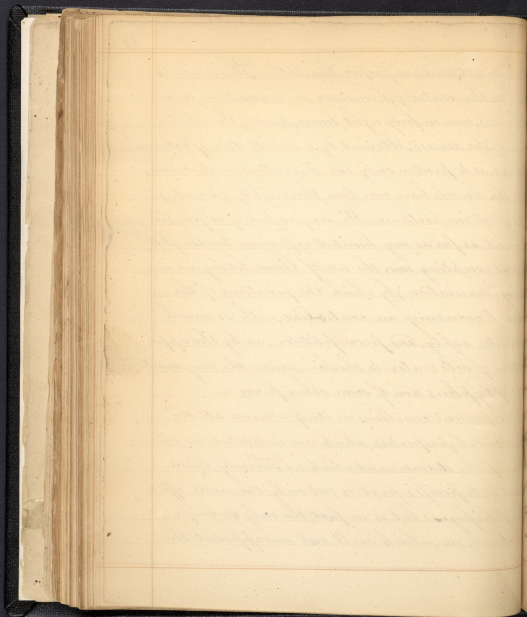


so far from debilitating the patient, had quite an opposite effect. That such was really the result of their action, in the hands of those who made these reports, cannot be denied. But notwithstanding the high authority from which they emanated, I must question their entire applicability, to every case; or even a majority of those cases, which occurred among us. In some cases, (which I confess were but few) I have seen them dissipate the low delirium, tremors, floccitatio & cold of the skin, by removing a large quantity of feculent matter from the intestines. The tongue which had before been dry, and furred, became more moist, and the pulse rendered less frequent. But such beneficial effects can only be expected in the first, and second stages of the disease, when the bowels had long remained costive, (i. in the last stage) under similar circumstances. I have seen on the contrary, many patients hurried off, by their frequent use — while I disclaim against the daily use of Cathartics, in this disease; let me not be understood to mean



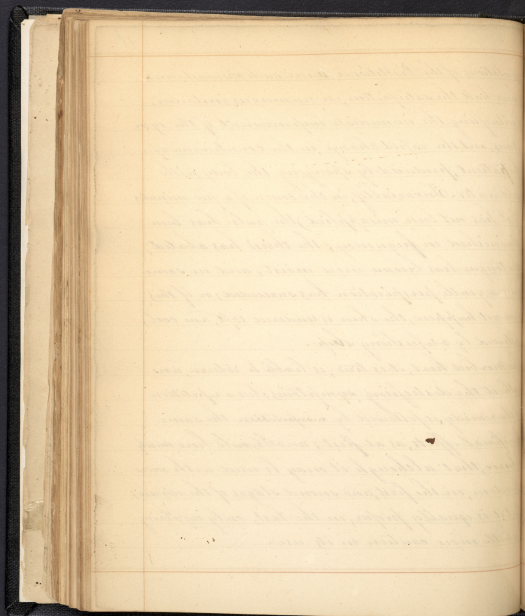
that I do not, under a proper limitation, ^{think} them serviceable; on the contrary, I consider an evacuation from the bowels, once in forty eight hours, during the whole course of the disease, obtained by a small dose of Calomel, given so, as to produce only one evacuation in that time, (after the bowels have once been thoroughly opened) of the first importance. We are possessed of no physical agent, as far as my limited experience has taught me (not excepting even the use of blood-letting in acute inflammation) by which the functions of the animal economy are controlled, with so much certainty, safety, and promptitude, as by the application of cold water to the skin, under the augmented heat of Typhus and of some other fevers —

This expedient combines in itself almost all the medicinal properties, which are indicated in this stage of the disease; and which we ^{should} scarcely a priori expect it to possess; for it is not only the most effectual febrifuge; but is in fact, the only sudorific, and Anodyne, which will not disappoint the



expectations of the Practitioner, under such circumstances. I have had the satisfaction, in numerous instances, of witnessing the immediate improvement of the symptoms, and the rapid change, in the countenance of the patient, produced by sponging the body, with cold water. Invariably, in the course of a few minutes (if it has not been misapplied) the pulse has been diminished in frequency; the thirst has abated; the tongue has become more moist; and in some cases a gentle perspiration has succeeded; or if this does not happen, the skin is rendered soft, and cool, followed by a refreshing sleep.

The morbid heat, it is true, is liable to return, and with it the distressing symptoms; but a repetition of the remedy, is followed by ~~an exhibition~~ the same beneficial effects, as at first; and I would here much ~~have~~ ^{observe}, that although it may be used with more freedom, in the first, and second stages of the disease; yet it is equally proper, in the last, only requiring a little more caution in its use.

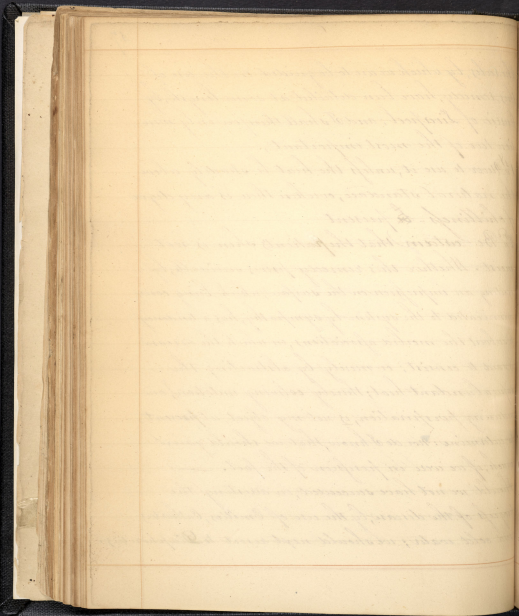


The rules, by which we are to be guided in the use of this remedy, have been detailed at some length, by Curie of Liverpool; and I shall therefore only mention two of the most important,

1st Never to use it, unless the heat be slightly above the natural standard, or when there is any degree of chilliness - ~~to~~ present

2nd Be - certain that the patient's skin is not moist. Whether this remedy proves serviceable, by exciting an impression on the surface, which being communicated to the system by sympathy, has a tendency to subvert the morbid associations, in which the disease is said to consist; or merely by abstracting the superabundant heat; thereby cooling irritation, and inducing perspiration, is not my object, at present, to determine: nor do I know, that we should gain much, if we were in possession of the fact.

Should we not have succeeded, in arresting the progress of the disease, by the use of Emetics, Cathartics and cold water; we should next resort to Diaphoretics.

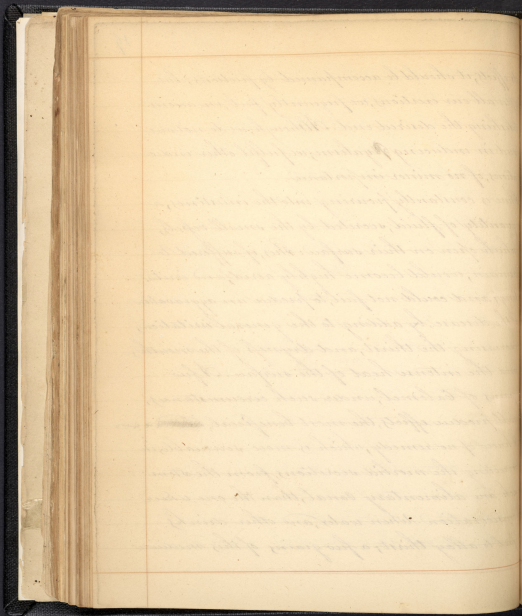


In the selection of the articles of this class, we should recollect, that there is, often a considerable degree of excitement yet remaining, and that we should in this, as in all other cases, be careful to adapt the power of the remedy, to the existing state of the system. The milder ones will often be found, to answer best; and for this purpose, I know of none, superior to the *Spts Munda*, the *Eupatorium Perfoliatum*, the Saline draught, or the *Diluted Spt of Nitre* alone, or combined with *Saudanum*, and *Antimonial wine*, taken to the extent of a drachm, or more, every hour, or two, aided by a vapour bath; or some mild, warm, beverage ^{will} be often found effectual. By using Calomel, in the small, and divided dose, which we have recommended to keep the bowels open, we often produce a *ptyalism*. of all effects, the most to be wished for. In no case, does this remedy exhibit more beneficial results, than in the one under consideration; at whatever time it may be induced. To ensure more completely,

the nature of the subject of this paper is to
show that there is a general principle which
governs the whole of the subject, and that
the various parts of the subject are all
connected together in a single system.
The first part of the paper is devoted to
the consideration of the general principle,
and the second part to the consideration
of the various parts of the subject.
The third part of the paper is devoted
to the consideration of the connection
between the various parts of the subject,
and the fourth part to the consideration
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The fifth part of the paper is devoted
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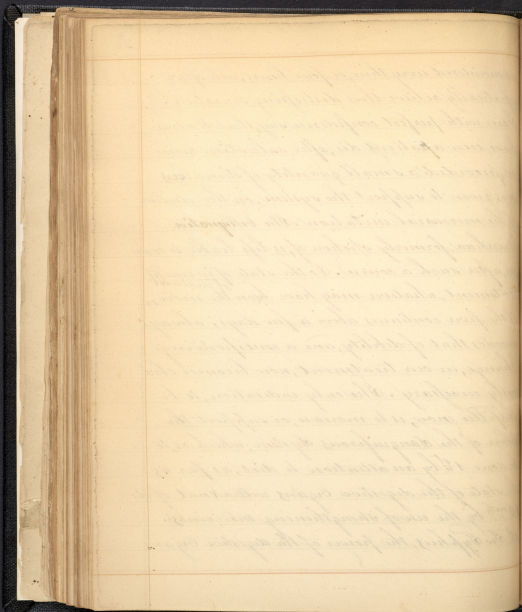
its effects, it should be accompanied by fictions; but after all our exertions, we frequently fail, in accomplishing the desired end. Although, we do not succeed in inducing Pyalism, we fulfil other indications, of no minor importance.

There is constantly pouring into the intestines, a quantity of fluid, secreted by the small vessels, which open on their surface. This, if suffered to remain, would become highly acrid, and irritating; and could not fail, to produce an aggravation of the disease, by adding to the general irritation, increasing the thirst, and dryness of the mouth, and the intense heat of the surface. A few grains of Calomel, under such circumstances, will produce effects, the most beneficial, ~~and~~ I know of no remedy, which is more serviceable, in correcting the morbid secretions, from the stomach and alimentary canal, than the one, under consideration. When water, and other drinks fail to allay thirst, a few grains of this medicine



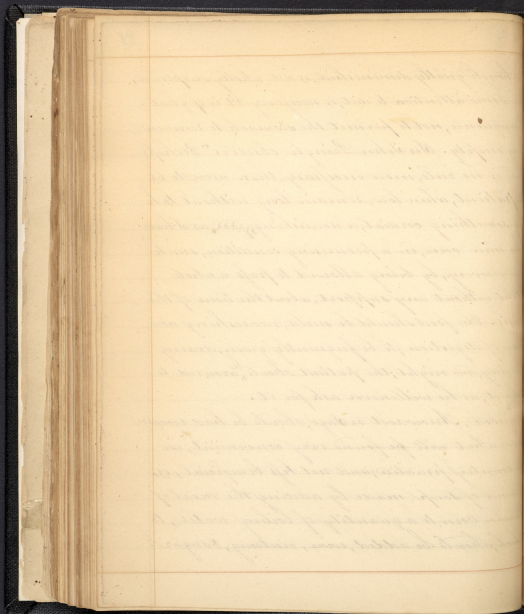
administered every three, or four hours, will often effectually relieve this distressing sensation. I can with perfect confidence say, that I never have seen a patient die, after salivation came on, provided a small quantity of stimulents was given to support the system, on the decline of the mercurial irritation. The Colliquative Diarrhoea, formerly spoken of, is less liable to come on, after such a course. So the state of ^{of} ~~increased~~ ^{exaltment} excitement, whatever may have been the mode, if the fever continues above a few days, always succeeds that of debility, and a corresponding change, in our treatment, now becomes obviously necessary. The only indication, to be fulfilled now, is to increase, or support the power of the Sanguiferous System, which is, to be done 1st by an attention to diet, as far as the state of the digestive Organs will admit of it; & 2nd by the use of strengthening medicines. —

1st In Dyspepsia, the power of the digestive Organs



although greatly diminished, is not wholly suspended, and some attention to diet, is necessary. It is of great consequence, not to permit the stomach to remain long empty. Sir John Pringle observes "Perhaps there is no rule, more necessary, than never to let the patient, when low, remain long without taking something cordial, or nourishing, ~~for~~ as I have seen him once, in a promising condition, sunk past recovery, by being allowed to pass a whole night without any support, about the time of the crisis. The food should be mild, nourishing and easy of digestion; to be frequently given, during the day, and night; the patient should ^{be} aroused to take it, as he will never ask for it.

Sapucca, Arrowroot or Sago, should be had recourse to; or what will be found very convenient, in in Country practice, and not less beneficial; is, a kind of Soup, made by adding the meal of Indian Corn, to a quantity of boiling water, to which, should be added, wine, nutmeg, & sugar.

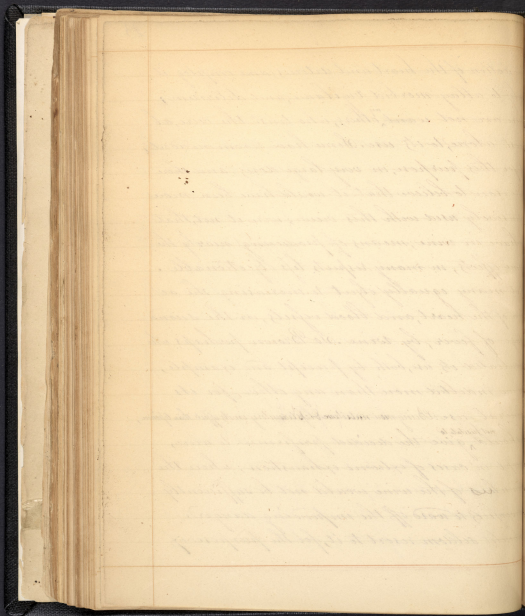


This is a home-made prescription; but I am confident, it will not be found less beneficial. The best drink is wine ~~and~~ whey.

Qⁿ We come now to that part of the treatment of this disease, in which all Practitioners coincide, as to the great indication to be fulfilled. Yet few of them agree, as to the means to be employed. While all seem agreed with respect to the propriety of using the medicines, strictly termed Tonics, in Typhus; they differ widely, respecting those, to which the name of stimulants has been more exclusively applied. The chief of these, are Opium, wine and Vol Alkal. By many Practitioners, the latter is preferred, as a stimulant; but much benefit may be derived, from this medicine, by combining it with wine ~~and~~ whey it may be given in the following form viz Carb. Am. Sacch. Album ʒ. Pulv Gum Arab. ʒ. Aqua Pont. ʒ. dose Perse Nata.

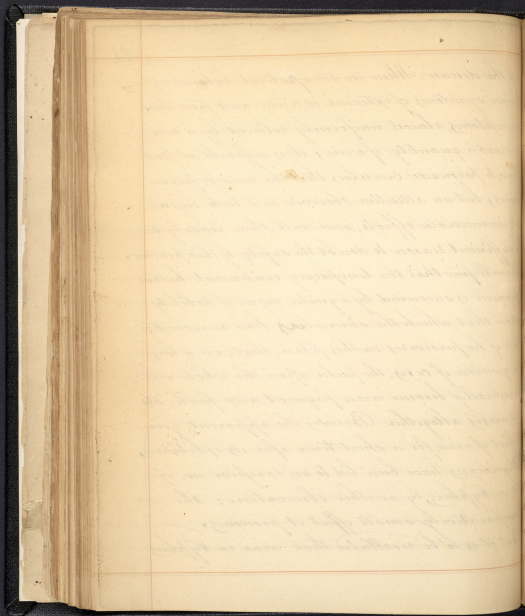
While some disclaim, altogether against the employment of Opium, for the purpose of increasing

the action of the heart and arteries; and employ it only to allay morbid vigilance, and delirium; there are not want^{ed} others, who trust the cure, almost alone, to its use. Some have recommended, it for this purpose, in very large doses, and there is reason to believe that it would have been more extensively used with this view; were it not, that we have in wine, means of producing nearly the same effects, in many respects less objectionable. But many equally object to increasing the action of the heart, and blood vessels, in the second stage of fever, by wine. Dr. Brown perhaps who inculcated its use, both by precept and example, are we indebted more than any other, for its general use. ^{Being more salutary & less disagreeable in its effects than Opium,} I should ^{not hesitate to} give the decided preference to wine, except in cases of extreme exhaustion; where the stimul^{es} of the wine would not be sufficiently powerful to ward off the impending danger. I should seldom resort to it, for the purpose of



increasing the general circulation; but only employ
 it, to allay morbid vigils, remove low delirium,
 and suppress Diarrhoea. These are indications often
 to be fulfilled; and here Opium displays a de-
 cided superiority over other remedies of this class...
 It may here be proper, to remark, that delirium
 may arise, in two different stages of this disease.
 That which occurs in the latter stages, is to be re-
 lieved by applying hot Bricks to the feet, which
 are almost always cold, in such cases; and
 by the liberal use of the remedy just mentioned,
 viz. Opium. When it arises in the first stage of
 the fever, it is effectually relieved by Cupping
 Leeching, cold water, and a blister applied all
 over the head. Blisters in this stage of the dis-
 ease, are productive of the most beneficial ef-
 fects, and should in every case be applied to
 the extremities. But to return to the use of Stim-
 ulants; there is no little difference of opinion, as
 to the quantity to be administered, in this stage

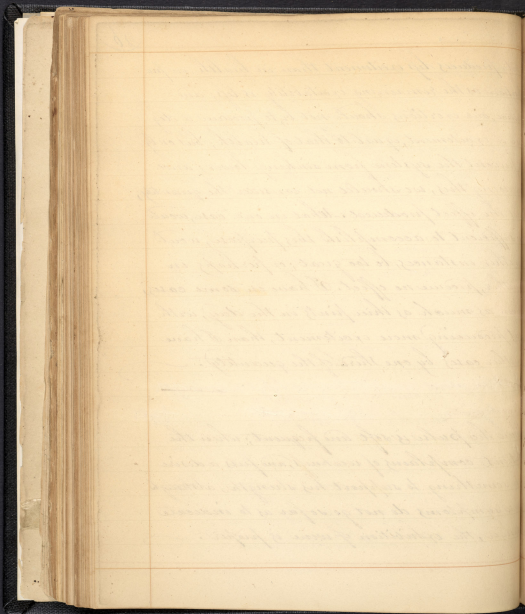
of the disease. When we see a patient labouring under symptoms of extreme debility; and find these symptoms, almost uniformly relieved by a considerable quantity of wine; it is difficult at first view, to persuade ourselves that the wine is pernicious; but an attentive observer will look beyond its immediate effects, and will then readily see a sufficient reason to doubt the safety of this practice. We will find that the temporary excitement hitherto procured is succeeded by a greater degree of debility, than that, which the stimulus had removed; and if he perseveres in this plan, that, in a large proportion of cases, the pulse upon the whole will gradually become more frequent, and feebler, till it ceases altogether. Besides the apparent good effect of wine, for a short time after its exhibition, Physicians have been led to an excessive use of it, in Typhus, by another observation; the comparatively small effect it produces. But it is to be recollected that wine in Typhus



only produces less excitement than in health, in proportion as the remaining excitability is less; and hence, our exertions should not be, to produce a degree of excitement, equal to that of health; but only to prevent the system from sinking lower; and in doing this, we should not consider the quantity, but the effect produced. What in one case, would be sufficient to accomplish this purpose, would in other instances, be too great; or perhaps in another, produce no effect. I have in some cases, given as much as three pints in the day, without producing more excitement, than I have in other cases by one third of the quantity.

~~When the pulse is soft and frequent, and the patient complains of weakness, and feels a desire for something to support his strength; although these symptoms do not go so far as to indicate danger, the exhibition of wine is proper.~~

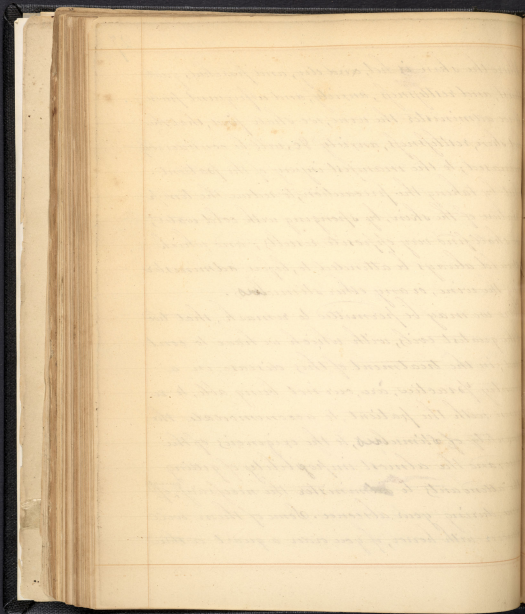
When the pulse is soft and frequent; when the patient complains of weakness, and feels a desire for something to support his strength; although these symptoms do not go so far as to indicate danger, the exhibition of wine is proper.



Where the skin is hot, and dry, and parched, great thirst, and restlessness, anxiety, and assurgent pulse; if we administer the wine, we shall find, that the hot skin, restlessness, anxiety &c, will be considerably increased; to the manifest injury of the patient.

But by taking the precaution, to reduce the temperature of the skin, by sponging with cold water, we shall find very opposite results; and which should always be attended to, before administering the wine, or any other stimulants.

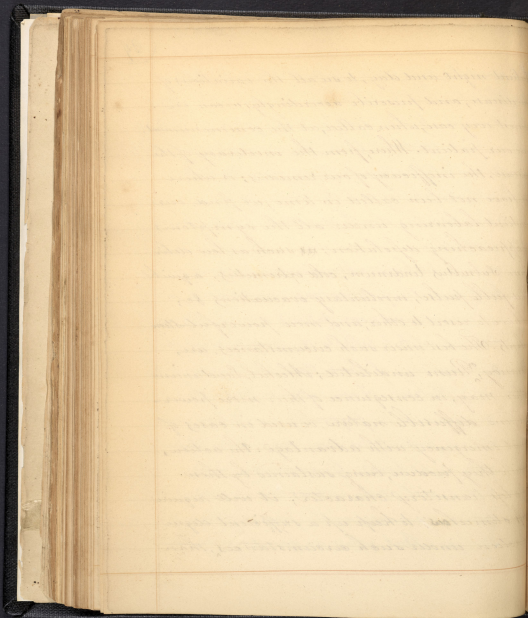
Here we may be permitted to remark, that two of the greatest evils, with which we have to contend, in the treatment of this disease, in a country practice, are, our not being able, to remain with the patient, to accommodate the quantity of stimulants, to the exigencies of the case; and the almost impossibility of getting the attendants to administer the necessary ^{quantity} of wine, during your absence. Some of them will shudder with horror, if you order a quart or three



pints of wine a day: when you have left your patient
 with the idea, that he is taking the quantity, which
 you directed, he does not perhaps get more than
 half a pint, in that time; and on returning, you
 have the mortification to find your patient,
 inevitably sunk beyond the power of medicine—
 he dies — and his death is attributed to your
 want of skill.

In other cases perhaps, when you return, you find
 that the quantity of stimulents was too great which
 had been ordered; and your patient manifestly in-
 jured. It is useless to talk to the people, about the
 state of the system; of which, they know as much,
 as they do of Hebrew — I am only surprised, that
 it does not prove more frequently mortal; as we
 do not see our patients, in some cases, more than
 one, in forty eight hours. Good nursing, and a
 generous diet, will do almost as much good, un-
 der such circumstances, as the prescription of
 the Physician. But when we can be with the

patient night and day, to see all the variations of the disease, and prescribe accordingly; we can in almost every case, when called, at the commencement, save our patient. Where, from the inveteracy of the disease, the inefficacy of our remedies; or where we have not been called in time, we find our patient labouring under all the symptoms of approaching dissolution; ~~xxx~~ such as low delirium, subulius tendinum, cold extremities, a quick and full pulse, involuntary evacuations &c; we have to resort to other, and more powerful stimulants. The best under such circumstances, are, Brandy, ²Rum undiluted; Alcohol, Laudanum &c. either may, in consequence of their more powerful, and diffusible nature, be used in cases of great emergency with advantage. The action, which they produce, being sustained by those of a less transitory character; it will require less stimulents, to keep up a sufficient degree of action under such circumstances, than



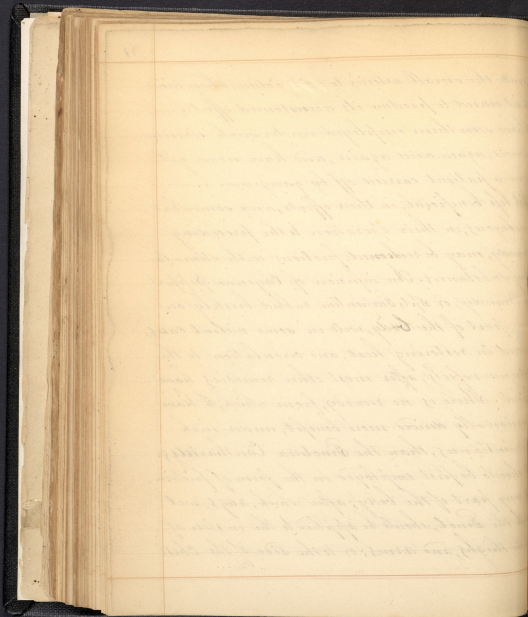
it does to rouse the system from its lethargic state. We should be guided here, in the administration of stimulents, as we formerly mentioned; that is, to give as much, as will be sufficient to produce the requisite degree of excitement.

Under such circumstances, great benefit may be derived from the use of external applications.

It has been said by one, whom I consider, as the highest medical authority in America, that blisters, in this stage of the disease, are of no kind of utility; that they seldom draw, and when they do, gangrene is the result.

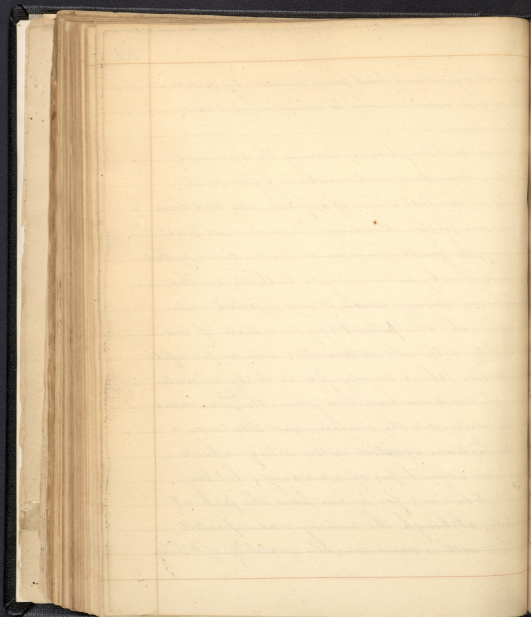
Unbiased by the weight of high authority, and trusting entirely to observation and experience (which I must acknowledge has been limited) I would merely say, in reply, that when the inside of the thighs, and arms, have been rubbed with a warm cloth, or some warm liquid, and the blisters applied, I have seen them in a great many cases, produce a vesicle, and

excite the small arteries to contraction, when wine
 had ceased to produce its accustomed effect. —
 I have seen them employed under such circum-
 stances, again and again, and have never yet
 seen a patient carried off by gangrene. —
 Not less beneficial, in their effects, and somewhat
 analogous, in their operation to the preceding
 remedy, may be reckoned frictions with stimula-
 ting substances. An infusion of Cayenne Pepper
 in Brandy, or Sp. S. Turpentine rubbed briskly on
 every part of the Body, will in some violent cases,
 succeed in restoring heat, and circulation to the
 extreme vessels, after most other remedies have
 failed. There is no remedy, from which, I have
 occasionally derived more benefit, under such
 circumstances, than the *Unguentum Cantharidis*.
 it should be first employed in the form of friction,
 to every part of the body; after which, rags, wet
 with the Unguent, should be applied to the inside of
 of the thighs, and arms; or to the side of the Chest

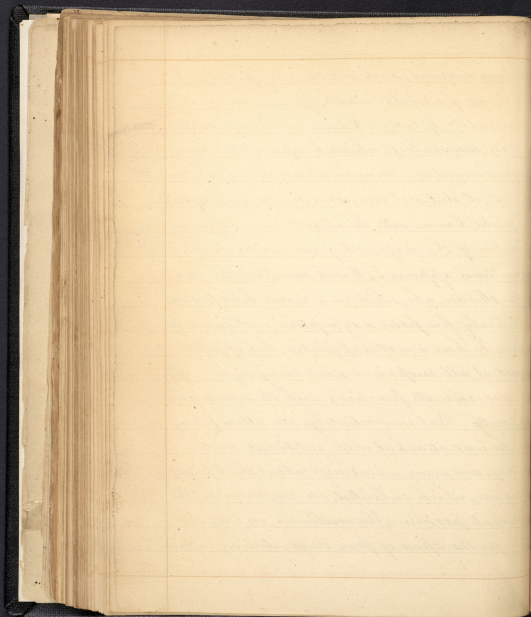


where the frictions had been previously made. I have one more remedy to mention, and then I have done.

I allude to Phosphorus. During the spring of Eighteen Hundred and nineteen, I gave to a patient in the last stage of Typhus, who had been given over by the attending Physician, as past recovery, the fourth of a grain of this medicine, rubbed up in Oil:— by introducing a Catheter in the Oesophagus, through which, it was injected into the Stomach. The patient lay in a state of insensibility, with cold extremities, and no perceptible pulse. About twenty-five or thirty minutes after the medicine had been given, the ^{heat} was measurably restored to the surface; and there were a few pulsations excited in the artery which gave me some hopes of a recovery, but they proved delusive: for in one hour the patient expired, although the remedy was repeated, together with a considerable quantity of Ether.



As I have described, such was the rise, progress, & appearance of a regular attack of this disease in the generality of cases. I have not as yet noticed any of its anomalies, which I before stated were very numerous; (there being in disease, the symptoms of which, it did not occasionally assume,) deferring them, until I came near the close of my subject. Illustrative of the disguised form under which it sometimes appeared; I will mention the case of a Gentleman, who, while in a recumbent posture was entirely free from a symptom, indicative of disease; he had a natural pulse; his appetite was not at all impaired; and every organ appeared to exercise its functions, with the accustomed regularity. But immediately, on attempting to rise he was attacked with giddiness and fainting, and some uneasiness about the Epigastric region, which subsided on reassuming the recumbent posture. He continued in this situation for the space of four days, during which



time I saw him every day, in company with my
 Preceptor. At the expiration of the fourth day, the
 disease developed itself, and proved to be one of
 the most violent I ever saw, to terminate favour-
 ably. In several cases, its first appearance was in
 the form of Odontalgia which in some instances
 continued for several days.

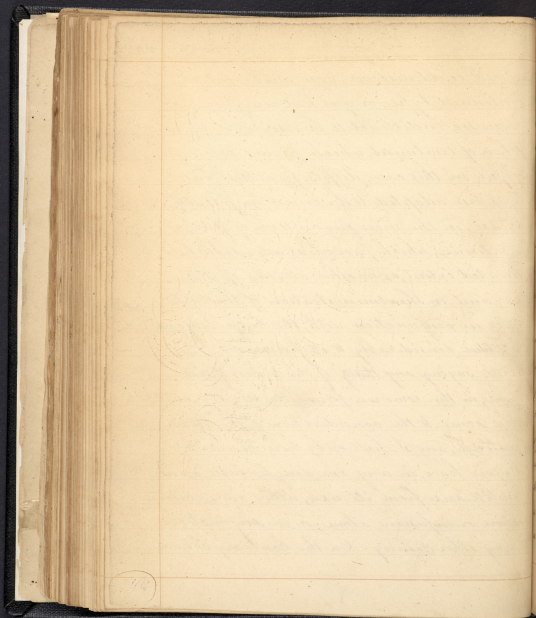
But by far the most common of its irregular
 forms were those of a Pelious and Pneumonic
 character. The first ~~being~~ the most frequent in
 occurrence of the two. Superadded to the usual
 symptoms attending a regular attack of this
 disease, we had those characterising of the
 derangement of the Hepatic system, partic-
 ularly the vomiting of very large quantities
 of bile which appeared not to be mixed with
 the contents of the stomach. after the first
 or second discharge. The disease evidently par-
 took of the remittent form, in which circumst-
 ance, it differed from the common form, which

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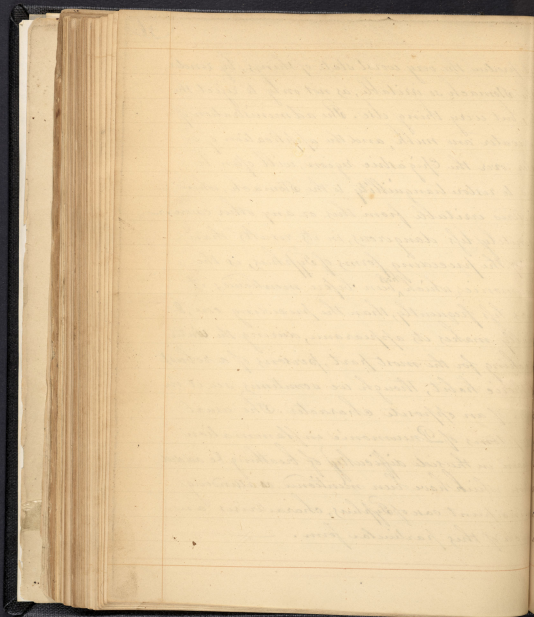
so far, as I could discover, were what is called, the continued type; or if it had remissions, they were too indistinct to be observed.

The plan of treatment, which proved most successful in this case, differs from that, laid down, as best adapted to the common form of the disease, in the more frequent use of Purgative medicines, which proved as surmountable here, to a limited extent, as in other attacks of this nature; and in the administration of the bark alone; or in conjunction with the *Singa Polygala* which added considerably to its powers.

I deferred saying any thing of the virtues of this medicine, in the common form of the disease, until I should come to the consideration of the one just noticed, and I shall only here remark, that I never have, in any one single case, seen any benefit arise from its use, either in substance decoction or infusion alone, or in conjunction with any other remedy. On the contrary I have



seen it produce the very worst state of things, by rendering the Stomach so irritable, as not only to reject the bark; but every thing else. The administration of lime-water and milk, and the application of a Blister over the Epigastric region, will often be found to restore tranquillity to the Stomach, when rendered irritable from this, or any other cause. Infinitely less dangerous, in its results, than any of the preceding forms of Typhus, is the Pneumonic, which ^{has} been before mentioned; it occurs less frequently, than the preceding one, & usually makes its appearance, during the winter attacking for the most part, persons of a robust phthoric habit, though we sometimes see it in others of an opposite character. The usual symptoms of Pneumonic inflammation as pain in the side difficulty of breathing &c added to those which have been mentioned, as attending an insipient case of Typhus, characterises an attack of this particular form.



Contrary to what we usually see in Typhus, we find the pulse often small, and hard, indicating the presence of inflammatory action. Blood-letting practised with that caution and discrimination, which should invariably attend the practice of a Physician, will here display its best effects, if had recourse to, before the third or fourth day; or before the system has sunk too low to admit of its use.

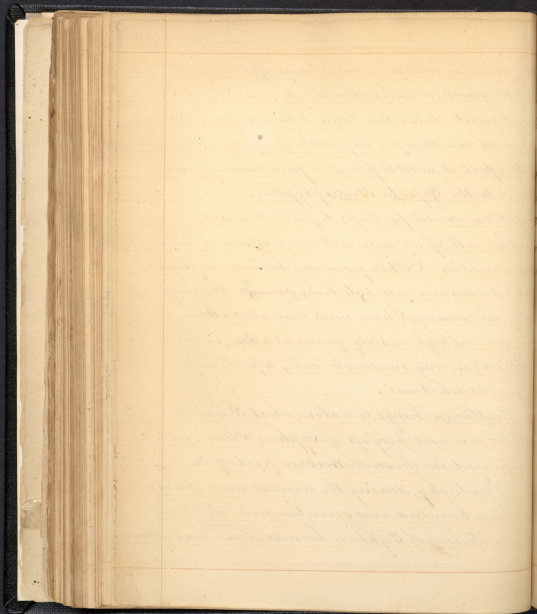
A large blister applied over the side, with a few expectorants of which the Sac. Ammoniac is to be preferred generally completes the cure.

Should this plan of treatment not succeed in arresting the progress of the attack, and the patient sinks, we shall then have to resort to that course before mentioned as applicable to the general form of Typhus. It will be seen that I have not mentioned, the Sulphuric, the Muriac, nor the Carbonic acids, Assafoetida, Castor, nor Musk. — among the remedies which have been found useful in this disease. I have never used any

of the acids is internal remedies, except the Sulphuric which answers exceedingly well in the convalescent state. The Castor I have never seen used, and can therefore say nothing of its utility; but I expect it will be found a feeble remedy when opposed to the Gigantic studies of Syphilis.

Assafoetida would perhaps be found to answer tolerably well, if we were not in possession of more active remedies. Either from my having employed Musk, as a dernier resort, its being stronger the inefficacy of the remedy; I have never been able (although I have given as high as sixty grains at a dose, in the two stages) in any one single case, to produce the least benefit what ever.

This Gentlemen brings to a close, what I had to say of the rise and progress of Syphilis Fever, as it appeared in the south-western part of the state of Kentucky, during the winters, and springs of Eighteen hundred and seventeen, and eighteen, and the spring of Eighteen hundred, and nineteen.



At what time it first commenced its ravages I never
 or have been able exactly to learn; though I be-
 lieve it was in the Autumn of Eighteen hundred
 and seventeen; from which time, to the present
 month, it has continued, except in the Summer
 months, to prevail. During the months of June,
 July, and August, it is only seen ~~in~~ ^{as} an attendant
 on the last stages of the ~~the~~ diseases,
 which occur during these months.

